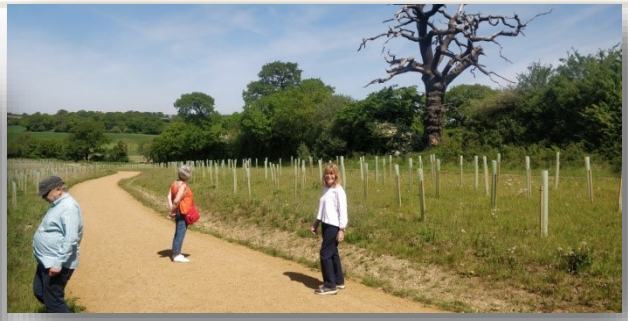
From May 2022
(Volume 125)

Photo History

Cover Picture

London Loop at Enfield Chace (recently opened , showing some of our tree planting May 2022

May 2022

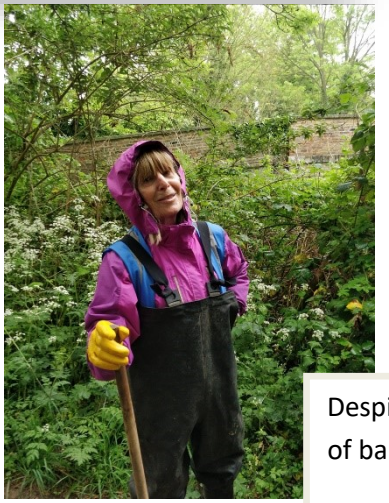


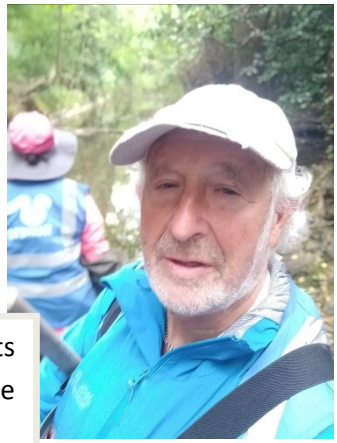
We proudly showed Cyril and Viv the wonderful new walk

Photo History

This is Himalayan Balsam which is a highly invasive species which , if not checked, will suffocate local indigenous species and we joined other Thames 21 volunteers, also kitted out in full waders. We walked along Turkey Brook at Forth Hall using poles to check ater depth ahead of us

Initial safety briefing





Despite a survey showing lots of balsam here Sue found the only obvious plant

Lynn leading our fellow waders

Our waders drying at the end of the session

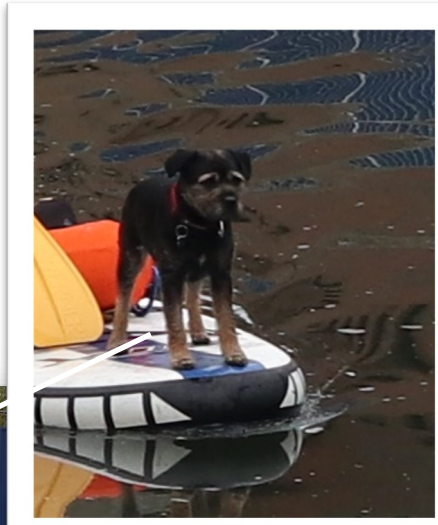
Water boiling and our welcome coffee

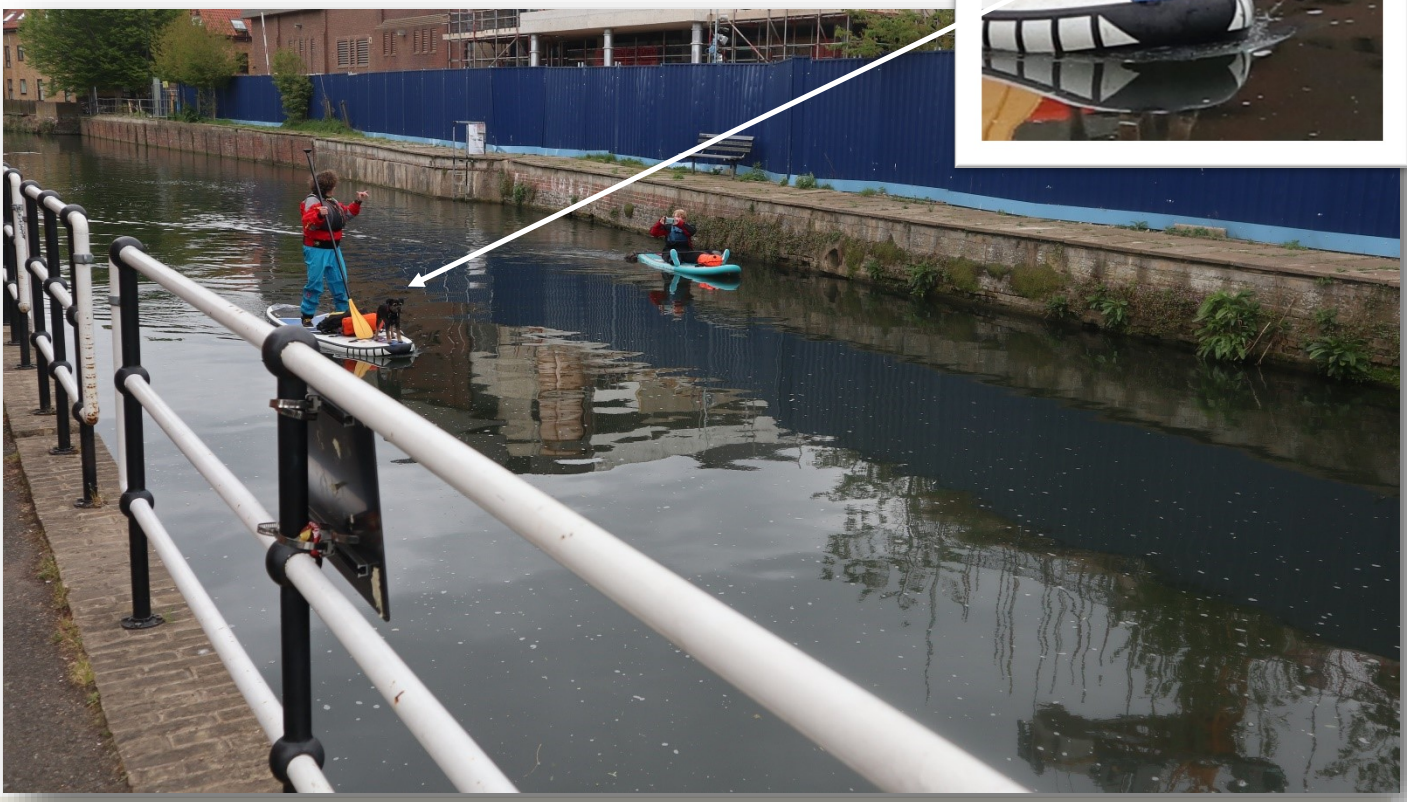
Photo History

One of our regular early summer tasks is foraging for wild garlic. We have a 'top-secret' place where we know it grows in abundance but we are careful not to denude large areas so it regrows.

We picked two large carrier bags full and once washed I added eggs, seasoning, flour and then moulded the resultant mixture into patties. Each one was then tossed in flour , egg and milk and finally in that marvellous Panko (Japanese breadcrumbs) They were then laid on parchment-covered trays in the freezer and once frozen bagged in 9's. Yes, it's a lot of work but they are unique and can't be bought anywhere. The beauty of them is that they can be speedily shallow fried in olive oil straight from frozen and are delicious

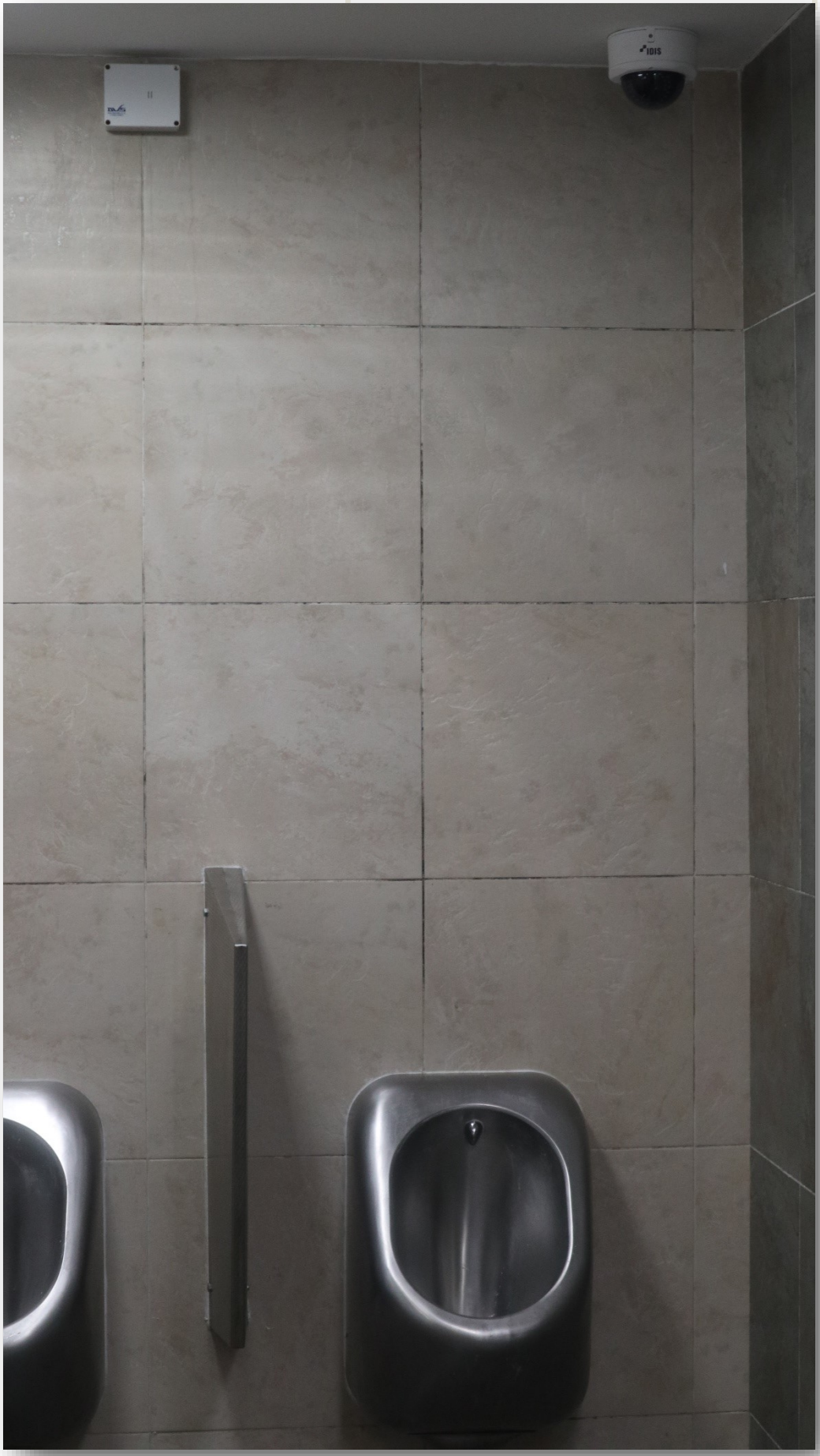
One of our regular walks is in Hertford. We walk past the Hertford Castle along Folly Island towards Bengeo along the river. It is a great varied walk and we spotted this amazing dog on the kayak. He had no fear of the water and e saw him swimming and then got back in.





We then saw him happily perched on the weir calmly watching the ducks...a truly amazing dog

You'd be right in thinking that this is possibly a strange choice of shot for my Photo History……



….until I draw your attention to the CCTV immediately above the urinal. Come on Hertford Council, do you really think this is acceptable??

Once the realisation that developers can get permission to add extra stories they will add stories to existing buildings. What will Southgate look like in the future.

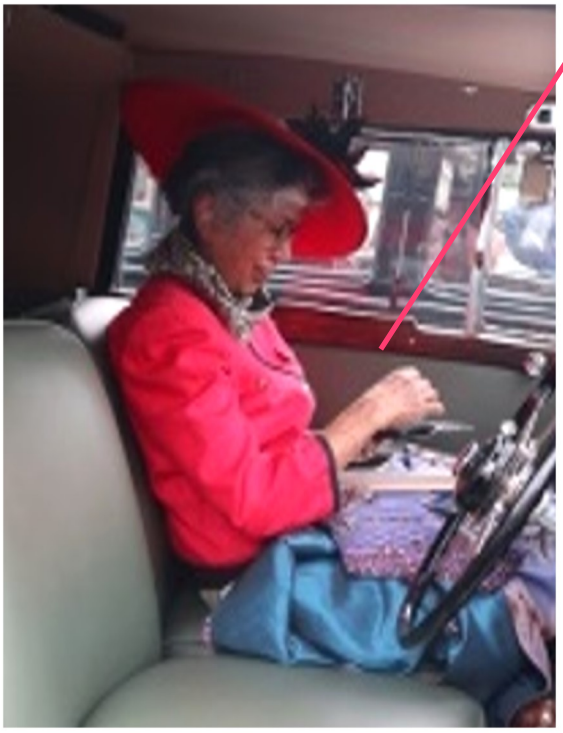
Outside the house

Cars at the Castle on Sunday, May 15

Hertford's largest free car show of the year was set within the picturesque castle grounds. Exhibiting up to 80 modern and vintage cars, there was food and refreshment stalls and live music,

The cars were fascinating (as were the characters displaying them) . I found it rather daunting that I actually learnt driving in a Morris Minor similar to the one now considered to be a 'Character Car'

What was so incongruous was this elegant lady in the car shown was in period costume and was busy chatting on her mobile



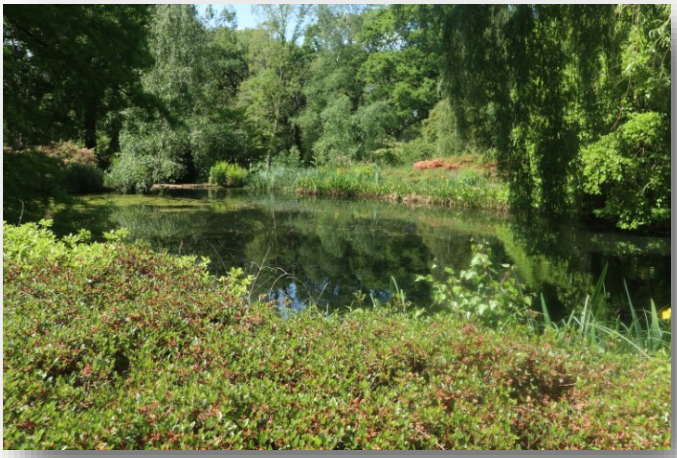
Yes...it's the same as the one I learnt driving in

The **Silver Jubilee of Elizabeth II** marked the 25 th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth 11 accession to the thrones of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms. It was celebrated with large-scale parties and parades throughout the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth throughout 1977, culminating in June with the official "Jubilee Days", held to coincide with the Queen's Official birthday. ...and yes, there are lots of photos of that occasion in earlier Photo history volumes...The anniversary date itself was commemorated in church services across the land on 6 February 1977, and continued to be for the rest of that month. In March, preparations started for large parties in every major city of the United Kingdom, as well as for smaller ones for countless individual streets throughout the country.. On 6th February this year Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives will take place throughout the year, culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. As we were away, I only managed to get a small taste of the preparations

We took the train to Richmond but I had forgotten how beautiful the view of the Thames is from Richmond Hill. There were deer everywhere in the park

Isabella Plantation is within Richmond Park is well known for it's beautiful floral displays of rhododendrons and azaleas but timing is critical It was beautiful but we missed seeing it at its best



Late May, early June 2022, we went to Sicily and as I took so many shots there , I decided to keep them all together in one book (Photo History 126) so apologies if this book is not entirely sequential

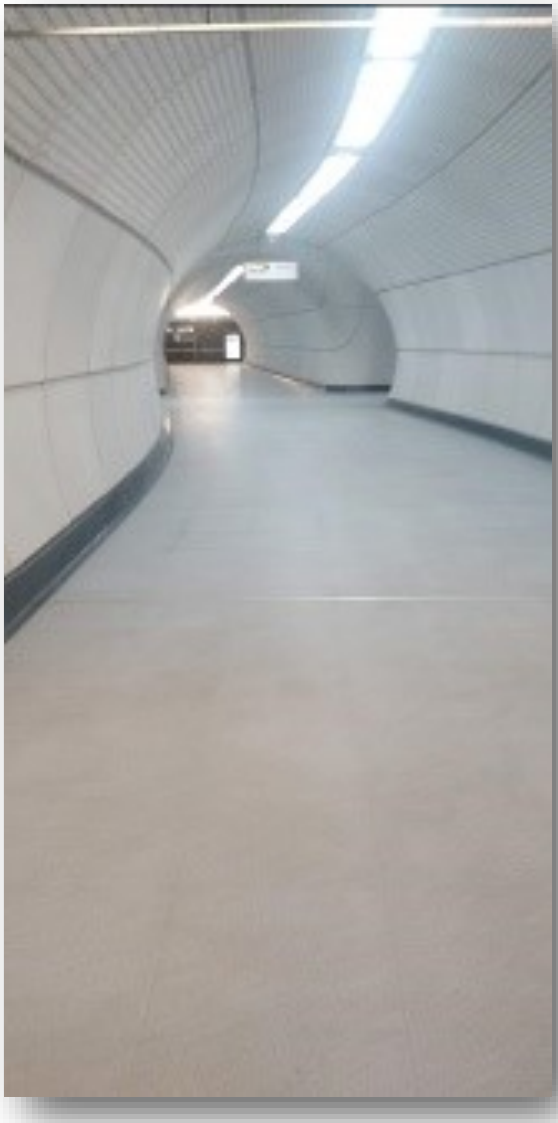
Photo History

2022 is a milestone year for Londoners, with the Elizabeth line set to open on Tuesday 24 May 2022.

As we were away at that time we went to Tottenham Court Road station prior to the official opening and Lynn persuaded a really great member of staff to allow us down via the massive unused escalator and into the vast passage and station complex. Hence the following unique photos of Tottenham Court Road Station totally devoid of people and pristine.

The transformational railway will reduce journey times, create additional transport capacity, improve accessibility and provide a huge economic boost to the capital and beyond.

The Elizabeth line will increase central London's rail capacity by 10 per cent, the largest single increase in the capital's transport capacity in more than 70 years. The railway is more than 100km long with new trains operating in 42km of new tunnel and track under central London, connecting 41 stations and bringing an additional 1.5million people within 45 minutes of London. With new stations, infrastructure, tracks and trains, the Elizabeth line will be opened in phases to ensure the railway is reliable for customers



Ayot St Lawrence Manor House

Julie Toll has won seven gold medals for show gardens at Chelsea and the six acres of garden at the Manor House Ayot St Lawrence demonstrate her subtle but confident skills as both designer and plantswoman. Around the venerable, elegant house of warm brick and tiles she has, over a period of years, created a series of inter-linking gardens for the owners Rob and Sara Lucas who have opened the garden for the National Garden Scheme for many years. Gerald told us about this garden in glowing terms and he understated it. It was totally superb . My photos can not hope to do justice to reality.

At the end of June '22 the 'lads' walk was from Battersea Power Station to Barnes...mainly along the Thames

The lure of those green seats and settee proved too much for us exhausted walkers*

* ..IN REALITY WE'D ONLY BEEN WALKING 5 MINUTES!

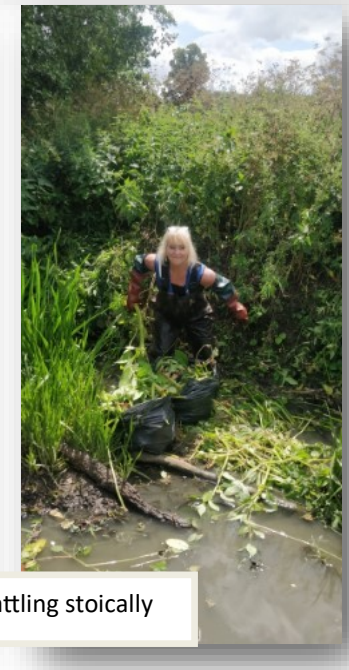
You will see that despite a massive development programme, Batter-sea Power Station is still in the throes of being completed

As part of the Thames 21 volunteering programme we cleared Himalayan balsam from the stream in Whitewebbs Park...Himalayan balsam, (Impatiens glandulifera) is a large annual plant native to the Himalayas. Via human introduction it is now present across much of the Northern Hemisphere and is considered an invasive species in many areas. Uprooting or cutting the plants is an effective means of control.

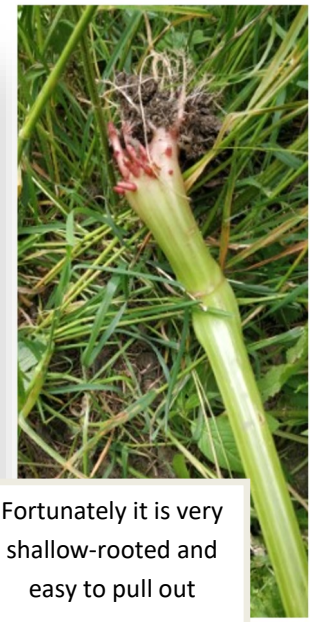
Safety briefing and the walk down to the stream

He supervised but didn't assist at all

It can grow several metres tall overshadowing many indigenous plants



Alison battling stoically



Fortunately it is very shallow-rooted and easy to pull out

It was a lovely day and such a great location. The balsam was broken and laid out to dry naturally to prevent spreading

Proudly standing on one of the piles of balsam we removed during the day

Some more Platinum celebration shots. In a Hertford Church cemetery, with Her Majesty, the corgis and horse . Also Debbie, the landlady standing proudly outside her pub; the Coach and horses at the top of our old road, Carbone Hill in Hertfordshire

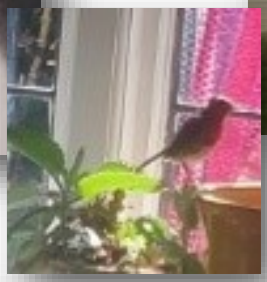
This field of poppies left us totally amazed. I don’t think we've ever seen a natural display so beautiful

Public Footpath 3
Stapleford ¼
Sacombe Road ½

US

No reason for these shots. Just ‘cos I like them..

A dead leaf but still beautiful



A visitor in our kitchen

Part of Trent park development#June’22

Part of Trent park development#June’22

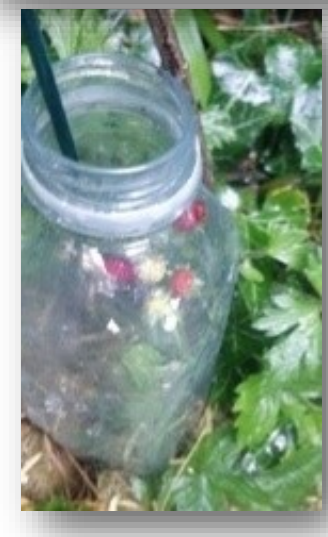
Viv and I in a silly mood

Part of Highlands hospital development

Tammy’s back garden

Cyril and Viv also in a silly mood

There is something fantastic about a wild flower meadow and this one is on Stanmore Common in June'22



I found a novel way of preventing the birds eating our few wild strawberries in our garden

Ayot St. Lawrence is a very attractive Hertfordshire Village. Birthplace of George Bernard Shaw.

Above is the Brocket Arms where we had lunch in the garden

Below is the old ruined churchyard

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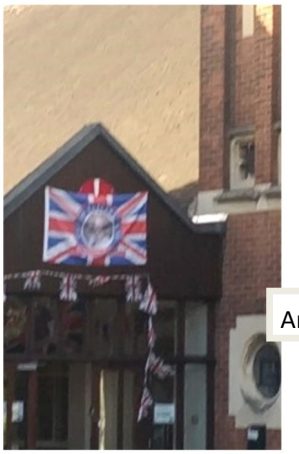
Photo History

Tammy & Larnie in Edinburgh



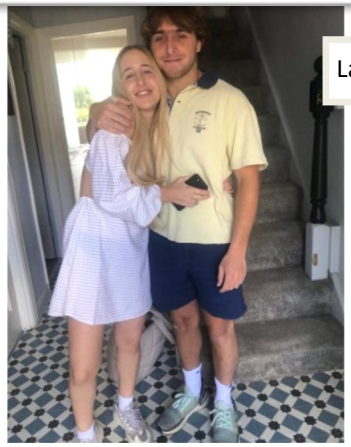
Around Southgate celebrating the Platinum jubilee

Larnie at Shindig festival

Tammy with Lynn and me

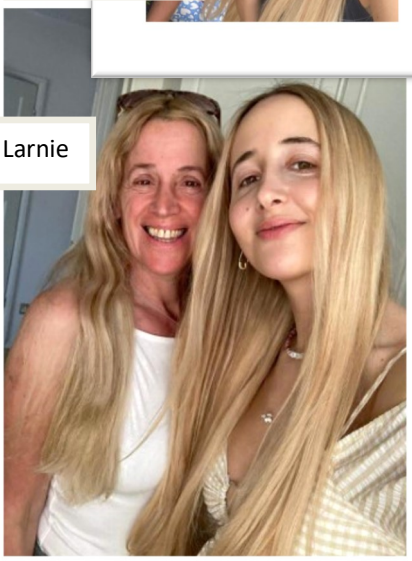
Larnie & Peachy

Larnie & Beau



Larnie & Jake

Tammy & Larnie



Sitting on the rapidly wilding meadow - a golf course in its former life ...
Grasses recently appeared, chequered with new paths
A breezy sunny July day.
Forgotten natural scents from wild flowers crushed underfoot.
Distant tall trees with gently swaying tops silhouetted against the bright blue sky laced with wispy fluffy white clouds
Distant twosomes walking deep in animated conversation, their dogs following happily behind, tails wagging, as hidden scents are detected.

A rural paradise filled with pairs of moths and butterflies darting in a seemingly erratic manner.

Small clumps of different trees with magpies in the trees' shade discussing urgent business.

A small bridge previously whose sole traffic of golf carts crosses the slowly meandering small stream still bordered with tall Himalayan balsam and reeds.

The sudden darting black shape of a tiny mammal is seen quick as a flash seeking refuge on the river bank. We are too wrapped in our own town existence to identify it.

Previous golf bunkers now are home to wild plants that seem to thrive on poor soil and rabbits have visited leaving their calling cards.

This refuge from urban life and routine is made the more delightful by no visible human habitation and road noise.

We can imagine we are lord of all we survey...

However, a sadness descends on me when obvious thoughts push themselves to the forefront of my mind..how long will this beauty be allowed to last..are offices and meeting rooms in our Civic Centre already crowded with worthy folk rubbing their hands with glee at the financial possibilities of this vast area.

No thought is given to the next generations that will benefit from these wonderful meadows.

Even if loud voices can be heard pleading for the retention of this oasis, deafness seems to be the order of the day.

We owe it to ourselves to keep and enjoy nature and our reward will be the smiles of dog walkers, families picnicking in grassy meadows and the sheer joy of keeping what nature has provided in abundance.

Let a silent, but important part of our society be the anonymous benefactors for future generations.

Remember that it is 'ours to enjoy' and not 'theirs to dispose of'

It can remain long after we are all no longer around..and in that way we will be remembered..

Lynn spotted this dead beautiful leaf

Noga and Adam , not-long-married, stayed with us for 4 nights in July '22. We laughed and walked, ate and explored London and the countryside together and we really enjoyed their company so much

They enjoyed the Enfield Chase walk and we were delighted to show off our tree planting areas

The exceptionally hot weather had almost dried out the ponds but these shots seemed to capture some of the magic there

We introduced them to the delights of fish and chips which we enjoyed in the park in Hertford town

This book of photos etc is printed out in volume 127 as Sicily required two books alone